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elsewhere," greatly endanger the liberties of the conquered peoples. It also declared against any increase of our standing army beyond 25,000 men.

. . . The Portuguese Peace League founded in May last has issued a protest, its first public act, against the Transvaal War, particularly against the conduct of England which it considers the cause of the conflict. The League, however, pays a strong tribute to the English peace societies and to the large body of Englishmen who did everything in their power to prevent the clash of arms.

. . . The W. C. T. U. of the United States will send two hundred delegates to the World's Women's Christian Temperance Union Convention to be held in Edinburgh next summer.

. . . The executive committee of the International Arbitration and Peace Association, London, has sent a circular to the European and American Peace Societies asking their opinion as to when they think would be an opportune moment for any of the Powers to offer to mediate in order to bring to an end the war in South Africa.

. . . The Society of American Authors has undertaken to secure a reduction of postage on authors' manuscripts. These manuscripts are not in any sense personal correspondence and ought not to have to pay letter postage.

. . . The Women's International Disarmament League of Paris has opened subscriptions for a fund to aid the widows and orphans of Boers slain in the Transvaal War.

. . . A similar fund has also been started by George W. Van Siclen, 141 Broadway, New York City, in response to an urgent appeal sent out by the Africander Bond of Cape Town. He will be glad to receive contributions, large or small, for this worthy object.

. . . The British Friends, foremost in every good work, are raising a Transvaal War Victims' Fund, to be distributed alike to suffering British and Boers, sick or wounded during the campaigns in South Africa. What they did in this way during the terrible scenes of the Franco-German War is one of the most blessed memories of history.

. . . Immigration into the United States from foreign countries the past year has shown large gains, the increase being especially great from Italy, Austro-Hungary and Russia. The increased emmigration from Finland has been caused by the Russianization of that country.

. . . In Munich, Germany, fifty thousand signatures have been obtained to a petition to the chancellor of the empire, expressing approval of the Hague conventions.

. . . Prof. John Bassett Moore, the distinguished authority on international law, in an able article in the current number of the *American Monthly Review of Reviews*, on the Hague arbitration convention, declares that this treaty represents a great advance in the development of international relations, and that the United States ought to be the first to approve and sustain it.

. . . The importation of tropical and sub-tropical products into the United States the past year has been over \$300,000,000 worth, as against \$250,000,000 the year previous.

. . . The recent death of Dorman B. Eaton in New York takes away one of the foremost civil service re-

formers and one of the strongest and most faithful friends of arbitration and peace.

. . . Emperor William has withdrawn the German military attaché from Paris because of insinuations made by Paris newspapers as to the activity of the German military officials in connection with the Dreyfus affair. Some of his military advisers strongly opposed the Emperor's course.

. . . The *North American Review* for December devoted almost half its space to articles on the South African question, by James Bryce, Carl Blind and others. Those studying the subject can find nothing more lucid and impartial.

. . . The death of Mr. Dwight L. Moody, mourned by all Christendom, takes away the foremost evangelist of this half of the century. In his later years he often spoke in great public meetings against international animosities as entirely un-Christian.

The Two Swords.

Luke 22 : 38.

BY CHRISTOPHER G. HAZARD.

Two swords enough? The battle is too great.
They come against us with a thousand blades.
Not so, my friends, for still the shout of faith,
A trumpet and an earthen vessel's light
Are stronger than the might of Midian's host.
The harvests of the earth fall to the sword,
But those of heaven are gathered by a word.
Into Love's heart all shafts of death are sped.
The sword is mightiest thus scabbarded.

CATSKILL, N. Y.

Peace.

BY GEORGE D. HERRON.

Thy sword and armor, soul,
This night,
Give to the angel here,
In white.
From blood-red battle call,
Be still:
Swift march the armies of
Love's will,
The captive common life
To free,
And this white angel leave
With thee.

Editorial Correspondence.

Cuba Since the War.

Approaching Cuba for the first time, one's mind is naturally filled with thoughts of Spain's oppression, the long cruelties of the Spanish-Cuban war, the deadly battles of the American army and fleet with the Spanish, the reconcentrado horrors, the filth of the cities, and other distressing things of which the island was so lately the scene. But for most of these things you now look in vain. The Spanish officials and soldiers are gone. Nearly all that is left to remind you of the Cuban army are the rural police in their brown uniforms. Only a

few American soldiers from the camps are seen strolling about the parks and plazas. The wreck of the *Maine* still lies in Havana harbor, calling to memory that night of horror and the uncontrollable passion which followed. On the south shore you see the wrecks of Cervera's fleet, and in the mouth of Santiago harbor a projecting spar of the *Merrimac*.

But beyond these there is little sign of the awful tragedies of tyranny and war so lately enacted on these now peaceful shores. The trenches on San Juan hill are nearly half filled with earth. The graves of the Spanish dead left there are almost hidden by the grass. The blockhouse is gone. The bullet-scars on the trees and bushes are half healed over. "Kettle Hill," up which the Rough Riders charged, is occupied by a herd of peacefully ruminating cattle, kept for the shambles. There is not a sign of blood at the "Bloody Ford," where so many American soldiers were shot down. El Caney is as peaceful as if it had never known the fury of battle. How quickly nature throws her mantle of healing silence over the fierce doings of men, as if anxious to hide them from sight and memory!

IMPROVEMENT OF THE CITIES.

Going into the cities one quickly discovers that much of the historic filth and dirt are gone. The American authorities in Havana, Santiago and other places have made them as clean as our American cities. The health conditions are rapidly becoming equal to those in the cities of Europe and the United States. The yellow fever, General Brooke told me, has already lost its terrors. The cities of Cuba have excellent water supplies, and the bread furnished by the bakeries is as good as one eats anywhere. The police are neatly clad and are an excellent looking set of men. Business is rapidly reviving, particularly in the seaport towns, and nearly everybody seems to have something to do. The customs service, which was as corrupt as any ever known, has been made honest and efficient. With the increased revenues the streets have been cleaned, new streets and roads constructed, the beginning of a better sewage made, the officials paid, etc. Many annoying taxes have been removed.

CARE OF THE RECONCENTRADO ORPHANS.

In the country districts there is now little sign of the distress which prevailed during the last days of Weyler. Here and there small banana patches uncared for tell of homes wrecked and families blotted out. But the reconcentrado orphans which remain have now nearly all been taken under care by somebody; some by the municipal authorities, some by the Red Cross, others by private persons, while others are being absorbed, one here and another there, into the families of their neighborhoods. Nearly all whom I saw now look well, and not very different in general appearance from the ordinary children seen on the streets and about the stations.

EXCELLENT WORK OF AMERICAN OFFICIALS.

Though I still believe that the war with Spain ought to have been avoided, and that the liberation of Cuba might have been brought about in a peaceful and perfectly honorable way, I take pleasure in bearing testimony to the excellent services performed by Governor-General Brooke and the other American officials since the war.

They have been for the most part honest and impartial. They have labored steadily for the good of the Cubans, respecting them and putting them forward. Fewer Americans than I had supposed have been given positions. There has been little of military domination, except in name. The government has been essentially a civil government. What distrust the Cubans have had towards us has not arisen from the acts of these officials, but from the vagueness and uncertainty of declarations made in Washington. Whatever our opinions about the war against Spain, we must now look at Cuba as it is and judge of our duties accordingly. What has been done so far since the war, important as it is, must not be overestimated. The real problems remain to be solved.

ATTITUDE OF THE PEOPLE.

The present attitude of the people may be described in general as one of hope and expectancy, mingled with considerable restlessness. But there is much indifference on the part of a considerable percentage of the population. There is also a good deal of unhealthy greed of money and some low political selfishness. The right development of the island is therefore sure to be attended with peculiar dangers, and there will be more than the usual chances of failure. What the island needs from this country above everything else is a strong infusion, for the next quarter of a century, of the best spiritual and moral life of our people, in order to support and develop the aspirations for better things existing among the native people. That is needed more than capital, more than political advice.

EDUCATION A PREREQUISITE TO ADVANCEMENT.

The most elemental of the needs of the Cuban people, now that liberty has come to them, is education. This is a prerequisite to their religious, political and industrial advancement. The problem of education, fortunately, has fallen into good hands, and has been taken hold of in a way that gives promise of much success. Mr. Frye, the newly appointed superintendent of education, who has volunteered to give his services free for five years, has already completed arrangements for the opening of three thousand schools. This will give one school for each hundred of the three hundred thousand children of school age, only a small fraction of whom can read a word. Education is to be compulsory. Text-books will be furnished free. Two millions and a half of the revenues this year are to go for school purposes. The superintendents of the six provinces and the teachers will nearly all be Cubans, taken from the educated class. They are to be liberally paid and are to spend their vacations in teachers' institutes, or forfeit a portion of their salary.

Besides the public schools, there are a number of private schools, including Catholic Church schools, already in operation. It will be at least ten years before the effect of these schools, public and private, will be seriously felt in the life of the people, even if they are carried on in a wise and effective way. But nothing so encouraging has taken place, in the transformation coming to Cuba, as the gathering up from the streets and byways of these three hundred thousand children and putting them to school, with suitable courses of study prepared for them. My observation in some private schools opened last spring convinced me that the children for the most part are bright and will learn with fair rapidity. Indus-

trial education is also to have careful attention. General Brooke had been arranging to open shortly an industrial school capable of instructing about seven hundred boys. General Wood, his successor, is sure to carry this project, or some similar one, through. Along the educational line, therefore, there is much ground for hope.

STRONG DESIRE FOR INDEPENDENCE.

The political problem presented by Cuba under existing circumstances is not an easy one to see through at one glimpse. One thing, however, seems to me entirely clear. Whether the island is to be independent or to be annexed to the United States must be determined chiefly by the inhabitants themselves. I found everywhere evidences of a powerful national sentiment among the masses, the suppression of which, if it could be suppressed, would be the greatest blow that could be given to Cuban progress. Under present circumstances it is the one influence capable of keeping the masses aroused and holding their faces steadily towards the attainment of a higher and better life. This national sentiment is not the product of café gossip, nor of the schemes of self-seeking politicians, however they may take advantage of it. It is the spontaneous movement of the Cuban national heart, which has through long years dreamed of liberty and sighed for it night and day.

SPANISH BUSINESS MEN FAVOR ANNEXATION.

The business men of the island, largely Spaniards, are said to be in favor of annexation. Their motive is ostensibly financial; it is doubtless really political. Under an independent Cuban government they expect no political positions. Cubans associated with them in business are ostensibly in favor of annexation. Their real sentiments are the other way, as conversation with them usually reveals. This national sentiment is so strong that it dominates everything. The Spanish annexationists have to be extremely cautious in its presence. A Cuban rarely ventures to oppose it. It is very sensitive and keeps its ear steadily turned toward Washington. Whatever is done in our capital in reference to Cuba is published next morning in the Cuban papers, and read eagerly to the people at all places of rendezvous. These papers for the most part sympathize strongly with the general sentiment, though very respectful towards the United States. This national sentiment demands independence and the ultimate withdrawal of United States control.

WHY CIVIL GOVERNOR WAS OPPOSED.

My visit to Cuba happened to fall at the time of the talk at Washington of appointing a civil in place of the military governor. The excitement was very strong nearly everywhere, amounting in some places to positive irritation, and Washington was not left in ignorance for a day of the state of feeling. This was not because the Cubans are opposed to civil government. On the contrary, they are sick of strife and war, and desire to be rid of military domination. But this move meant to them annexation pure and simple. The President's yielding to their wishes in the matter and his assurance in his message that our government will keep its pledge to them relieved the strain, but has made it more than ever imperative that this country should be absolutely true to its word. Otherwise there will inevitably be trouble, and Cuban development will be much disturbed

and marred. I could not discover that the people object to temporary supervision, provided they are assured of independence at last. But it is clear that even temporary supervision will speedily reach its limits.

HOW ANNEXATION SHOULD COME ABOUT, IF AT ALL.

Immediate annexation is then, in any peaceful and honorable way, clearly impossible, judging from present indications. If Cuba is ever to become a part of the United States, as I believe would be greatly to the advantage of its people and not injurious to us, it must come about as a spontaneous movement of the people themselves. They must have time to discuss it among themselves, and become convinced that with us they would enjoy all the advantages of local self-government and some strong additional advantages arising from union with a great country like ours. Meantime they should be allowed to develop their own government. It is quite true that many of them are as yet unable to exercise the functions of government, or even to vote with much intelligence. One-fourth of our own countrymen are in the same condition, not being able to read a word. There are, however, enough cultivated and upright men among the Cubans to lead them in developing a government which would be in every way better for them than forcible annexation, from the evil effects of which it would take them a long time to recover. If rightly treated, they will some day, I am sure, come to us of their own accord, as will all the other West India islands.

INDUSTRIAL FUTURE OF CUBA.

The industrial development of Cuba will depend very much on the moral and political character which it shall evolve. The island is incomparably fertile, and it passes comprehension that after four hundred years since its discovery it still remains half a wilderness. With civil and religious freedom it would long ago have blossomed "like the garden of the Lord." A few men grew rich robbing the custom houses and manipulating the taxes, a few others in commerce and sugar growing, in spite of the corruption and oppression. But the masses of the people have always been poor. The interior of the island has never been developed, much of it never touched. Probably half the territory, taking the island as a whole, is virgin soil. Some parts are idle because of the desolations produced during the revolution, but much larger portions have never been occupied in any practical way. The political and commercial system of the past prevented the development of any but the coast regions and a few easily accessible portions of the interior. Several competent persons assured me that the island would support ten millions of people, instead of the million and a half now inhabiting it.

INDUSTRIAL NEEDS.

The first industrial need of Cuba, now that peace has come, is a good railroad throughout the entire length of the island, with branch roads to all important points. The existing roads are short, and do not reach any of the interior portions of the eastern half. Their service is poor and infrequent. The passenger and freight rates are so high as to be nearly prohibitive. First class tickets are over six cents a mile, and corn, two crops of which can be grown per year, can be imported cheaper than it can be brought from the interior to the coast towns.

With a good railroad system, abundant capital will soon find its way to all parts of the interior, where countless argosies of sugar, corn, bananas, oranges, pineapples, and everything else tropical, are waiting to be enticed from the soil. With the railroads must of course go good highways, of which there are yet none, and modern industrial implements and methods so far as applicable to the tropics. There is not likely to be any lack of outside industrial help. Business men from this country, England, France and Germany are already on the ground looking out for openings, and so far as they propose to do honest, legitimate business, their entrance into the island is in every way desirable.

DEPLORABLE RELIGIOUS CONDITION.

The religious condition of Cuba is most deplorable, and little has yet been done to improve it. The state church, which is now gone, was a worse failure, if possible, than the political administration. The masses of the people are without religious instruction. They are like sheep having no shepherd. Probably not one in ten of them ever owned or even saw the inside of a whole New Testament. They have largely lost confidence in the Catholic Church, and no longer attend its services in any considerable numbers. Many have conceived a positive aversion to it, and even speak contemptuously of all religion. The American Catholics are making vigorous efforts to regain the hold lost by their Spanish brethren. What success will attend their efforts will depend very much on the methods employed.

MEAGERNESS OF PROTESTANT WORK.

There has never been any Protestant work in Cuba worth speaking of. There is not a single Protestant house of worship, constructed for that purpose. The great work of Mr. Diaz in Havana is carried on in an old theater bought and turned to religious uses. All other work, so far as I could find out, is carried on in rented ordinary dwelling houses, poorly suited to the purpose. Even now there is amazingly little being done by our Protestant churches and mission boards compared with what ought to be done. Everything else has moved faster than the churches. One cannot but compare with great regret their slowness in undertaking the evangelization of Cuba with the fiery zeal with which many of their members, both preachers and laymen, clamored for war with Spain.

From what I saw at the stations already opened, I am convinced that the people in general are open to and hungry for the gospel. They can be reached in multitudes if it is presented to them promptly in its simplicity, free from traditionalism and formality, as a gospel of truth, light and spiritual freedom. The Baptists, who began work before the war and have done most since, are having very encouraging results both among adults and young people. Their rooms are usually crowded to overflowing with eager listeners. The children come in troops, and sing the gospel hymns with a delightful freshness of interest. The same is true, in the main, of the Southern Methodists, the Presbyterians, the Congregationalists and the Friends, wherever they have begun work. But the meagerness of the work so far undertaken becomes painfully evident when one sees in Cienfuegos and Santiago, with sixty and forty thousand inhabitants respectively, only two organizations each,

reaching all told only a few hundreds of people. Havana, with two hundred and fifty thousand people, has six organizations at work, reaching all told, directly and indirectly, possibly five thousand persons.

OPPORTUNITY GREAT FOR AMERICAN CHURCHES.

The religious bodies of this country, to whom this spiritually starved people are looking with hope and trust, have never had such an opportunity thrust upon them before. I am afraid they have little sense of its urgency. It offers unparalleled openings for the young life of the churches, and promises extraordinary returns in the building up of the kingdom of God. The future of Cuba depends very greatly on the promptness and largeness of spirit with which our American Christianity responds to this call of God, to this cry of spiritual need going up at our very doors. The lack of the gospel in its purity has been at the root of all Cuba's stagnation and calamities. Whatever political reformation may do for her, however much she may be prepared for a better future by education and industrial improvement, her spiritual life must be touched and transformed from on high, if she is to rise very high in the scale of civilization and maintain permanently the gains which she may make.

B. F. T.

The Coming Reform—A Woman's Word.

BY MARY ELIZABETH BLAKE.

It is strange what a hold old habits retain upon the world at large, although the circumstances which formed them may have entirely disappeared. Centuries ago the total absence of law and the poor apology for order which existed among the governing forces of masses of men rendered an appeal to arms the only solution possible in case of difficulties between individuals or nations. A blind feeling of reverence and trust in the divine power accompanied this attempt at settlement; so that, entering upon the battle or the duel with the conviction that God would aid the victim and confound the oppressor, it frequently resulted that right did make might, and that wrong was vanquished by justice. Our broader and sadder wisdom has laughed such faith to scorn; intricate relations between community and community, as well as complicated laws governing society, have increased a thousandfold the causes of quarrel and misconception; we have removed the duel from the pale of civilization and Christianity, and relegated all questions of dispute between man and man, whether civil or criminal, to the arbitration of courts or to the decision of a body of jurors. But we still have recourse to war in settlement of difficulty between nations; and the wickedness which we call murder in the singular becomes transformed to glory in the plural. We do this with open eyes, and unabashed; although we know but too well, by bitter experience of life and the world, that the justice of a cause or the honesty of a motive count for less than nothing in determining the result, if the opposite side can produce more men and more money to equip them. What a sad commentary upon the state of public opinion and upon the forces which rule the chances of defeat or success is this sentence, taken from an editorial of the New York *Sun* apropos of the question between the United States and